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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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Local

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL.--The job outlook for Eastern Illinois University spring graduates is obviously better in some academic areas than others but "good for everyone who hustles and sells him or herself," says Jay Knott, director of Career Planning and Placement.

While the non-education business majors, particularly accounting and data processing, are in high demand, Knott said the teacher shortage "is just starting to surface.

"There are number of vacancies in chemistry, physics, speech pathology, Spanish and English . . . and all of the special education areas are short, also," he said.

This demand has brought public school recruiters to campus from farther distances. At a spring teacher placement day 56 recruiters from 23 states interviewed EIU candidates.

"We haven't had that many on campus in the last ten years, and I believe at least a dozen students were offered contracts right on the spot," Knott explained.

On the average, those contracts represent a substantial increase in pay. "I'd say the average was up about \$2000 . . . and that's for students with teaching certificates and no experience. If that's an accurate barometer, the education field has improved financially."

In the non-education areas, a specialization in business will lead to more attractive job offers. "Your grade point average really enters into it in such fields as accounting and computer science. Those with 3.0s

more

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will obviously go first and someone with a 3.7 might have as many as a half dozen offers."

Although students no longer must register with the Placement Center as a prerequisite for graduation, the office still maintains a high profile for providing assistance in the job search.

"I'd say about 90-95% of the teacher education students go through the center primarily, in their case, because school districts require that credentials be filed.

"But over 50% of the non-education majors register, also. In addition, we have about 1000 graduates out in the field who are looking to move to another position and have reregistered with us," Knott explained.

EIU's Placement Office in cooperation with a few other Illinois institutions have organized job fairs for current graduates and alumni in the state's larger cities, and have organized one for minorities in Chicago in January.

"As an example that jobs are available, we've had to turn away prospective employers at these job fairs because we simply didn't have enough room available at some of the sites," he said.

"I really contend that the good candidate will get a job regardless of major . . . again providing he or she can communicate and will hustle," Knott said.